



## CRITICAL THINKING ACTIVITY: THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM

**OBJECTIVE:** Students will:

- + Review the basic properties shared by all types of electromagnetic radiation.
- + Research some characteristics and uses of radiation from one of seven specific regions of the EM spectrum.
- + Present their research findings to the class.

**MATERIALS:** Computer with Internet access, paper/pencil, research materials;

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Go over the background reading with the class. **(NOTE: Portions of the preceding text courtesy of the National Energy Foundation and the NASA)**
2. Present the six basic properties common to all types of electromagnetic radiation to the class to record on their note sheet.
3. Explain to students that they will research characteristics, uses, and facts about one of seven regions of the EM spectrum, and report on what you have learned. Assign a region of the spectrum to each group to research.
  - + Students should use the four points on the page to guide their research and record their explanations.
  - + Emphasize that the information on this page will form the basis for your group presentation.
4. Direct each group to produce a PowerPoint presentation or poster as the focal point for presenting their group's research findings.
5. In class, each group will present the information they have researched.
  - + As each group makes its presentation, students will take notes and answer the questions on the six (empty) pages which follow that their group did not use for its research.